

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Construction Work on the Southern Section of
the Berlin Outer Freight Ring

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1. At a conference held at the Berlin regional railroad headquarters on 14 August 1950 it was proposed that work on the construction of the line from Grossbeeren via Mahlow to Schoenefeld, a section of the southern section of the Berlin Outer Freight Ring, be started after completion of the Loewenberg - Rathenow line. [] work on this project can hardly be started before the end of the year.
2. It was noticed in late August 1950 that surveying work for the construction of a railroad line from Grossbeeren to Schoenefeld via Mahlow was completed.
3. On 25 October 1950 it was reported that construction work on the Grossbeeren - Mahlow - Schoenefeld line of the southern section of the Berlin Outer Freight Ring was to be started soon. A sum of 2,000,000 Eastmarks to be spent in 1950 has been allocated for this project.
4. Track construction work near "Lichtenrader Kreuz," which is between Grossbeeren - Mahlow-Schoenefeld, was started in mid-November 1950. The new tracks are to eliminate rail operations through the American Sector of the city.
5. Construction work on the southern section of the Berlin Outer Freight Ring from Grossbeeren via Mahlow to Schoenefeld was begun in mid-November 1950. Work on the reconditioning of the railroad embankment between Grossbeeren and Mahlow, which was built before WW I, has been started. Work still to be done on the embankment includes excavating of a cut before and after Mahlow; construction of a railroad underpass near Mahlow; construction of three or four railroad overpasses over roads; and construction of a railroad embankment as far as Schoenefeld. *

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* [] Comment. The construction project mentioned, work on which had previously been started and then discontinued, was reported previously. []

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The completion of the project would eliminate the last passage through the American Sector of Berlin near the Lichtenrade Railroad Station, and thus make the Soviets immune from any western counter-measures that might be taken in the event of a renewal of the Soviet blockade of Berlin.

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